

REMARKS

The present amendment is in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and in response to the final Office Action dated October 30, 2008, which set a three-month period for response, making a response due by January 30, 2009.

Claims 4-10, and 14-27 are pending in this application.

In the final Office Action, claims 4-5, 8-9, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,671,815 to Kabatnik et al. Claims 6-7, 10, 12, 14-16, and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kabatnik.

In the present amendment, claim 17 was amended to more specifically define the present invention over the Kabatnik reference by defining that the rib (21) extends from the end, facing away from the introduction opening (152), of the guide sleeve (15) over only a limited portion of the guide sleeve (15) *in such a manner that the rib (21) and the form-locking element of the power supply module (11) come into engagement with one another only toward an end of the insertion travel of the power supply module.*

In addition, the term "longitudinal direction" as proposed previously by the Examiner has been replaced by "axial direction of insertion", which corresponds more accurately with the disclosure of the present invention (see page 4, lines 2-5).

Claim 18 has been amended in a manner similar to that of claim 17 and also includes the feature of "substantially less than half of a length of the guide sleeve".

Claim 10 was amended to delete the features of original claim 13, which are now recited in new claim 26.

Claim 12 has been canceled.

Original claim 10 was directed to a power supply module. New claim 27 has been added, which defines a power supply module.

Amended claims 17 and 18 and new claim 27 are not anticipated by or rendered obvious over Kabatnik since each claim includes language describing the function of the form-locking element ("the rib (21) and the form-locking element of the power supply module (11) come into engagement with one another only toward an end of the insertion travel of the power supply module"). This is clearly not disclosed in Kabatnik: the centering body 57 and the guiding web 56 come into engagement with one another at the beginning of the insertion travel, not the end.

Figs. 4 and 5 of Kabatnik clearly show that the form-locking element 57a, b has more or less the same axial length as the introduction dome (axial length here means the length in the direction of insertion). This is because the form-locking elements 57a, b are part of a centering body 57 which helps to insert the battery pack into the machine body (column 3, lines 32-38 of Kabatnik). Since the form-locking elements 57a, b help to insert the battery pack into the machine body, they necessarily have to contact corresponding form-locking elements 56

right at the beginning of the insertion process. Thus, the form-locking elements on the battery pack and the machine must extend over the entire length of the introduction dome and the insertion opening, respectively. Otherwise, they would not function as centering means.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. However, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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